

The College at Brockport: State University of New York Digital Commons @Brockport

Environmental Science and Ecology Faculty
Publications

Environmental Science and Ecology

7-21-2009

Histological Lesions in Mink Jaws are a Highly Sensitive Biomarker of Effect after Exposure to TCDD-like Chemicals: Field and Literature-based Confirmations

James M. Haynes

The College at Brockport, jhaynes@brockport.edu

Sara Tucker Wellman

The College at Brockport, wellmanst@aol.com

Kerrie J. Beckett

James J. Pagano

Scott D. Fitzgerald

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/env_facpub



Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Haynes, James M.; Wellman, Sara Tucker; Beckett, Kerrie J.; Pagano, James J.; Fitzgerald, Scott D.; and Bursian, Steven J., "Histological Lesions in Mink Jaws are a Highly Sensitive Biomarker of Effect after Exposure to TCDD-like Chemicals: Field and Literature-based Confirmations" (2009). *Environmental Science and Ecology Faculty Publications*. 108.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/env_facpub/108

Citation/Publisher Attribution:

Haynes, J.M., Wellman, S.T., Beckett, K.J. et al. Histological Lesions in Mink Jaws Are a Highly Sensitive Biomarker of Effect After Exposure to TCDD-Like Chemicals: Field and Literature Based Confirmations. *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol* (2009) 57: 803

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00244-009-9362-3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Environmental Science and Ecology at Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Environmental Science and Ecology Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact kmyers@brockport.edu.

Authors

James M. Haynes, Sara Tucker Wellman, Kerrie J. Beckett, James J. Pagano, Scott D. Fitzgerald, and Steven J. Bursian

Histological Lesions in Mink Jaws are a Highly Sensitive Biomarker of Effect after Exposure to TCDD-like Chemicals: Field and Literature-based Confirmations

James M. Haynes^{1,6}, Sara T. Wellman¹, Kerrie J. Beckett², James J. Pagano³, Scott D. Fitzgerald⁴, and Steven J. Bursian⁵

¹Department of Environmental Science and Biology
The College at Brockport
State University of New York
Brockport, NY 14420

²Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086

³Environmental Research Center
The College at Oswego
State University of New York
Oswego, NY 13126

⁴Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48910

⁵Department of Animal Science
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

⁶Copies: www.brockport.edu/envsci

Published article available at:

<http://www.springerlink.com/openurl.asp?genre=article&id=doi:10.1007/s00244-009-9362-3>

Abstract

The mink (*Mustela vison*) is one of the most sensitive mammals to 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD)-like chemicals. By literature review we established that a histological lesion of the jaw bone of mink, evidenced by squamous epithelial hyperplasia in the gingival tissue that forms nests or cords that infiltrate the periodontal ligament and alveolar bone causing osteolysis of the mandible and maxilla that could lead to squamous cell carcinoma, is the most sensitive known biomarker of effect following exposure of mink to TCDD-like chemicals. Lesions have been observed when total TCDD toxic equivalents (TEQ: dioxins, furans, co-planar polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs) in liver exceed 40 ng/kg-ww or when total PCB exceeds 1,698 ng/g-ww. This is the second report of histological evidence of this lesion in wild-caught mink, and it is the first report of the lesion being grossly detectable in naturally exposed mink. Some mink living near the south shore of Lake Ontario (exposed to the lake's food web) but not inland mink (not exposed to the lake's food web) accumulate more than 40 ng total TEQ/kg or

1,698 ng total PCB/kg in liver. Because of its sensitivity, the jaw lesion biomarker is very useful for assessing the health of wildlife populations exposed to TCDD-like chemicals.

Introduction

The Lake Ontario food web is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans (O'Toole et al. 2006, Carlson and Schwackhamer 2006). Assessment of mink jaw tissue for mandibular and maxillary squamous epithelial proliferation offers one of the most sensitive methods to detect piscivorous mammalian exposure to these chemicals, including 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF), and co-planar TCDD-like PCBs (Beckett et al. 2005). Environmental exposure to these chemicals manifests as a histologically detectable lesion identified as mandibular and maxillary squamous epithelial proliferation or hyperplasia in the gingival tissue of the maxilla and mandible of mink (*Mustela vison*) (Beckett et al. 2005, Render et al. 2000a, b, 2001). The lesion is characterized by proliferation of squamous epithelial cells that form nests or cords that infiltrate the periodontal ligament and alveolar bone causing osteolysis of the mandible and maxilla (Beckett et al. 2005). The chemical, dose, and duration of exposure contribute to the level or stage of progression of the lesion (Beckett 2004). Squamous epithelial proliferation appears to progress to squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) in mink gingival tissue (Bursian et al. 2006a, b, Beckett et al. 2005). SCC is extremely invasive and destructive, meeting certain criteria of malignant carcinogenicity, and has been shown to be fatal to mink in laboratory studies (Beckett 2004).

This study originated from a project (Haynes et al. 2009) that identified “degradation of fish and wildlife populations” and “bird or animal deformities and reproductive problems” as potential problems in the Rochester Embayment of Lake Ontario Area of Concern (RAP 1993, 1997). Here we employ two approaches to determine if histological lesions in mink jaws are a highly sensitive biomarker of effect after exposure to TCDD-like chemicals. First, we reviewed the literature to correlate concentrations of TCDD-like chemicals in mink tissues with adverse effects. That review provided values to compare with tissue residues we found in mink (Haynes et al. 2009). Second, the prevalence of the oral lesion was assessed in wild, trapped mink that were naturally exposed to environmental contaminants in the Lake Ontario watershed.

Methods

Literature Review

Basu et al. (2007) reviewed the toxic effects of persistent organic chemicals on mink, covering field and lab studies and the use of mink in hazard assessments. Leonards et al. (1995) and Kannan et al. (2000) reviewed the toxicity of PCBs to mink. Rather than duplicate those efforts, we focused on studies that linked dietary concentrations of TCDD-like chemicals to tissue residues (Haynes et al. 2009), as well as to reproductive and other effects (Haynes et al. 2007, Appendix 4). We concentrated on reports of chronic exposures, as they best represent the exposures of mink to TCDD-like chemicals in the environment. We used Academic Search Premier, BioOne, BasicBIOSIS, InfoTrac, OneFile, JSTOR, and ScienceDirect as search engines.

Assessing the Prevalence of Oral Lesions

To assess adverse effects on mink, we examined three specimens captured in each of the four regions described in Haynes et al. 2009). These three mink were the individuals with the highest and lowest measured total PCB concentration in liver as well as the individual mink closest to the average total PCB concentration in liver among the 10 mink captured in each region. Previously frozen mink heads were preserved in 10% buffered formalin and examined clinically. Following the procedures of Beckett et al. (2005), mink heads were placed in Surgipath® Decalcifier II (hydrochloric acid) (Surgipath Medical Industries, Inc., Richmond, IL) and tissues were trimmed during the decalcifying process. The mandible and maxilla (i.e., lower and upper jaw, respectively) were sectioned to 5 µm, processed for paraffin embedding, mounted on microscopic slides, and stained with hematoxylin and eosin for subsequent histological assessment. Suspected lesions were verified by a board-certified veterinary pathologist (co-author S.D.F.).

Results and Discussion

Literature Review

Dioxins and Furans. We identified studies linking dietary concentrations to tissue concentrations in mink for dioxins, furans and PCBs (Table 1). The toxicity of dioxins and furans to mink is well-established (Basu et al. 2007, Hochstein et al. 1998, 2001, Render et al. 2000a, 2001), and Lowest Observable Adverse Effect Levels (LOAELs) are usually reported as 2,3,7,8-dibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD) toxic equivalents (TEQ) in ng/g (dietary) or pg/g (tissue residue) wet weight (ww). Many studies have evaluated toxic end points in terms of dietary concentrations but not as tissue concentrations in the mink. Render et al. (2000a) reported that a dietary concentration of 5 ng TCDD/g fed to adult females for six months caused proliferation of squamous epithelial cells in bone adjacent to teeth, and Render et al. (2001) found the same effect in 6- and 12-week-old kits fed 2.4 ng TCDD/g for as little as 14 days. Hochstein et al. (1998) reported that 1 ng TCDD/g caused 62.5% mortality in adult female mink fed for 125 days. Hochstein et al. (2001) found that when mink dams were fed 0.053 ng TCDD/g, kit survival was reduced to 47% vs. 83% in the control group (0.0006 ng TCDD/g in the diet). These studies did not report tissue concentrations.

Tissue as well as dietary concentrations were reported by several researchers who fed wild-caught fish to mink (Table 1). Since the fish used as the source of TCDD-like chemicals contained PCBs, as well as dioxins and furans, their total TEQ values also included contributions from the coplanar PCBs in the fish. Heaton et al. (1995) and Tillitt et al. (1996) reported reduced 3- and 6-week-old kit survival at a maternal dietary concentration of 22.4 pg TEQ/g (0.72 µg total PCB [TPCB]/g), which resulted in maternal liver concentrations of 208.3 pg TEQ/g (2.19 µg TPCB/g). Bursian et al. (2006b, c) reported increased mortality in 3- to 6-week-old mink kits whose dams had been fed 68.5 pg TEQ/g (3.7 µg TPCB/g), resulting in maternal liver residue concentrations of 218.4 pg TEQ/g (3.133 µg TPCB/g). Bursian et al. (2006a, b, c) also found jaw lesions in 27- and 31-week-old juveniles fed 47 pg TEQ/g (1.1 µg TPCB/g) and 9.2 pg TEQ/g (0.96 µg TPCB/g), respectively, with corresponding juvenile liver concentrations of 75 pg TEQ/g (16 µg TPCB/g) and 40.2 pg TEQ/g (1.7 µg TPCB/g).

Polychlorinated Biphenyls. Bursian et al. (2006c) found that the dietary LC₁₀ and LC₂₀ for total PCB were 0.231 and 0.984 µg TPCB/g, respectively, and estimated a threshold dietary concentration of 33.2 pg TPCB/g based on kit survival. Restum et al. (1998) reported reduced whelping in dams fed 0.25 µg TPCB/g, resulting in a liver concentration of 860 ng/g. Halbrook et al. (1999) found a trend (P = 0.069) for reduced litter size in dams fed 1.36 µg Aroclor 1260 equivalent (EQ) PCB/g in the diet, resulting in a maternal liver concentration of 7.25 µg Aroclor 1260 EQ/g and a maternal adipose concentration of 129 µg Aroclor 1260 EQ/g. However, this effect may have been confounded by the presence of mercury (0.22 µg/g) in the fish used in the diet, resulting in 3.67 µg/g in the maternal livers. Beckett et al. (2008) reported that dietary exposure to 3,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl (PCB 126, the congener with the highest TEF, 0.1; USEPA 1989) resulted in impaired reproductive performance in dams (with confirmed matings) exposed to diets containing 2.4 (LOAEL) and 24 ng PCB 126/g feed. No significant differences were reported between the control group and the 0.24 (NOAEL) ng PCB 126/g-fed group for the measured reproductive parameters.

Co-planar PCBs were not analyzed in the original study by Haynes et al. (2009). However, there are distinct relationships between total TEQ, PCB TEQ, and dioxin-furan TEQ in mink (Tansy et al. 2003, Martin et al. 2006). Multiplying dioxin-furan TEQ by a factor of 1.25-2 gives a reasonable estimate of total TEQ in mink (Haynes et al. 2009), and this is what we did to bracket the likely range of total TEQ in our mink (Table 2).

Assessing the Prevalence of Oral Lesions

Twelve mink heads were processed and jaws were examined for gross and histological evidence of exposure to persistent organic chemicals (Table 3). Mink 17, captured near the shore of Lake Ontario within the Rochester Embayment AOC, exhibited histological and gross evidence of oral neoplasia and squamous cell carcinoma and, also, had the highest hepatic total PCB (5,871 ng/g-ww) and the third highest dioxin-furan TEQ (21.3 ng/kg-ww) concentrations reported by Haynes et al. (2009). The concentration of total PCB in mink 17 exceeded the LOAEL for the oral lesion (1,698 ng/g-ww) by a factor greater than three while the worst case scenario for total TEQ in mink 17 (dioxin-furan TEQ*2) was 42.6 ng/kg-ww, just above the 40.2 ng/kg-ww LOAEL (Tables 1 and 2).

Mink 17's lesion was grossly apparent during the processing stages, particularly in the left maxilla in which small proliferative areas containing nodular-like growths and swellings were recognized along the outside of the last premolar along the dental arcade. Mink 17 was diagnosed with severe lesions in the four jaw quadrants (right and left maxillae and mandible). Histopathologically, cellular cords and nests extended deep into the jaw bone in which the lesion was apparent. More than 50% of the jaw bone had been replaced with cords and/or nests of squamous epithelial cells. This is the first report of the lesion being grossly detectable in a naturally exposed mink and, therefore, suggests increased credibility for using the lesion as a biomarker for exposure to and effect of TCDD-like chemicals.

Three other mink (21, 63, 46) each had suspicious areas within the gingival tissue suggestive of the lesion but the degree of freeze-thaw artifact and tissue damage from tooth extraction for aging was too extensive to confirm the etiology of the tissue damage. Also, the concentrations of total PCB and total TEQ (the worst case, dioxin-furan TEQ*2, is shown in Table 3) in mink 21, 46 and 63 were far below concentrations observed to cause jaw lesions (Table 1). In addition, mink 49, with dioxin-furan TEQ of 47.6 ng/kg-ww that exceeded the 40

ng/kg-ww LOAEL shown in Table 1, exhibited no evidence of the lesion. Mink 49 also had low total PCB (755 ng/g-ww) compared to the 1,698 ng/g-ww LOAEL for jaw lesions.

In our literature review, jaw lesions had the lowest LOAELs for any biomarker of effect for TCDD-like chemicals. It appears that only mink with exceptionally high contaminant loads in the study area are at risk for jaw lesions. However, duration of exposure, in addition to concentration, may also play a role in the expression of the lesion (Beckett 2004). Possible reasons for high concentrations of total PCB and dioxin-furan TEQ in mink 17, which exhibited unmistakable evidence of the oral lesion, are presented in Haynes et al. (2009).

Acknowledgments

Randall Baase collected most of the mink used for this study. The Histology Department at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health for processed the tissue slides. This project was funded by grant C302399 from the New York State Great Lakes Protection Fund.

Literature Cited

- Basu N, Scheuhammer AM, Bursian SJ, Elliot J, Rouvinen-Watt K, Chan HM. (2007) Mink as a sentinel species in environmental health. *Environmental Research* 103: 130-144.
- Beckett, KJ. (2004) Induction of Squamous Cell carcinoma in the mandible and maxilla, and reproductive dysfunction in mink (*Mustela vison*) caused by 3,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl (PCB 126). Dissertation for Doctor of Philosophy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Beckett KJ, Millsap SD, Blankenship AL, Zwiernik MJ, Giesy JP, Bursian SJ. (2005) Squamous epithelial lesion of the mandibles and maxillae of wild mink (*Mustela vison*) naturally exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 24: 674-677.
- Beckett KJ, Yamini B, Bursian SJ. (2008) The effects of 3,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl (PCB 126) on mink (*Mustela vison*) reproduction and kit survivability and growth. *Archives Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 54: 123-129.
- Bursian SJ, Beckett KJ, Yamini B, Martin PA, Kannan K, Shields KL, Mohr FC. (2006a) Assessment of effects in mink caused by consumption of carp collected from the Saginaw River, Michigan, USA. *Archives Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 50: 614-623.
- Bursian SJ, Sharma C, Aulerich RJ, Yamini B, Mitchell RR, Beckett KJ, Orazio CE, Moore D, Svirsky S, Tillitt DE. (2006b) Dietary exposure of mink (*Mustela vison*) to fish from the Housatonic River, Berkshire County, MA, USA: Effects on organ weights and histology and hepatic concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls and 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin toxic equivalents. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 25(6): 1541-1550.

- Bursian SJ, Sharma C, Aulerich RJ, Yamini B, Mitchell RR, Orazio CE, Moore DRJ, Svirsky S, Tillitt DE. (2006c) Dietary exposure of mink (*Mustela vison*) to fish from the Housatonic River, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, USA: Effects on reproduction, kit growth, and survival. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 25(6): 1533-1540.
- Carlson, DL, Swackhamer, DL. (2006) Results from the U.S. Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program and effects of lake processes on bioaccumulative contaminant concentrations. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 32: 370-385.
- Halbrook RS, Aulerich RJ, Bursian SJ, Lewis LA. (1999) Ecological risk assessment in a large river-reservoir: 8. Experimental study of the effects of polychlorinated biphenyls on reproductive success in mink. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 18: 649-654.
- Haynes JM, Wellman ST, Pagano JJ. (2007). RAP Progress in the Rochester Embayment of Lake Ontario: Population monitoring, trophic relationships, and levels of bioaccumulative chemicals of concern in mink, a sentinel species. Final report to the NY Great Lakes Protection Fund. NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Buffalo, NY. Available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25597.html>
- Haynes, JM, Pagano, JJ, Wellman, ST. (2009) Total PCBs, dioxin-furan TEQs and total mercury concentrations in mink in and out of the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern near and inland from the shore of Lake Ontario. *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*. Available at: <http://www.springerlink.com/openurl.asp?genre=article&id=doi:10.1007/s00244-009-9365-0>
- Heaton SN, Bursian SJ, Giesy JP, Tillitt DE, Render JA, Jones PD, Verbrugge DA, Kubiak TJ, Aulerich RJ. (1995) Dietary exposure of mink to carp from Saginaw Bay, Michigan. 1. Effects on reproduction and survival, and the potential risks to wild mink populations. *Archives Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 28: 334-343
- Hochstein JR, Bursian SJ, Aulerich RJ. (1998) Effects of dietary exposure to 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin in adult female mink (*Mustela vison*). *Archives Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 35: 348-353.
- Hochstein JR, Render JA, Bursian SJ, Aulerich RJ. (2001) Chronic toxicity of dietary 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*P*-dioxin to mink. *Veterinary and Human Toxicology* 43: 134-139.
- Kannan K, Blankenship AL, Jones PD, Giesy JP. (2000) Toxicity reference values for the toxic effects of polychlorinated biphenyls to aquatic mammals. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment* 6: 181-201.
- Leonards PEG, de Vries TH, Minnaard W, Stuijzand S. (1995) Assessment of experimental data on PCB-induced reproduction inhibition in mink, based on an isomer- and congener-specific approach using 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin toxic equivalency. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 14: 639-652.

- Martin, PA, Mayne, GJ, Bursian, S, Palace, V, Kannan, K. (2006) Changes in thyroid and vitamin A status in mink fed polyhalogenated-aromatic-hydrocarbon-contaminated carp from the Saginaw River, Michigan, USA. *Environmental Research* 101: 53-67.
- O'Toole, S, Metcalfe, C, Craine, I, Gross, M. (2006) Release of persistent organic contaminants from carcasses of Lake Ontario Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). *Environmental Pollution* 140: 102-113.
- RAP. (1993) Stage I Remedial Action Plan for the Rochester Embayment of Lake Ontario. Monroe County Department of Health. Rochester, NY.
- RAP. (1997) Stage II Remedial Action Plan for the Rochester Embayment of Lake Ontario. Monroe County Department of Health. Rochester, NY.
- Render JA, Hochstein JR, Aulerich RJ, Bursian SJ. (2000a) Proliferation of periodontal squamous epithelium in mink fed 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD). *Veterinary and Human Toxicology* 42: 85-86.
- Render JA, Aulerich RJ, Bursian SJ, Nachreiner RF. (2000b) Proliferation of maxillary and mandibular periodontal squamous cells in mink fed 3,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl (PCB 126). *Journal Veterinary Diagnosis and Investigation* 12: 477-479.
- Render JA, Bursian SJ, Rosenstein DS, Aulerich RJ. (2001) Squamous epithelium proliferation in the jaws of mink fed diets containing 3,3',4,4',5-pentachlorobiphenyl (PCB 126) or 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD). *Veterinary and Human Toxicology* 43: 22-26.
- Restum JC, Bursian SJ, Giesy JP, Render JA, Helferich WG, Shipp EB, Verbrugge DA, Aulerich, RJ. (1998) Multigenerational study of the effects of consumption of PCB-contaminated carp from Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron, on Mink. 1. Effects on mink reproduction, kit growth and survival, and selected biological parameters. *Journal Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A* 54: 343-375.
- Tansy, CL, Senthilkumar, K, Pastva, SD, Kannan, K, Bowerman, WW, Masunaga, S, Giesy, JP. (2003) Concentrations and profiles of polychlorinated biphenyls, -dibenzo-*p*-dioxins and -dibenzofurans in livers of mink from South Carolina and Louisiana, U.S.A. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 83: 17-33.
- Tillitt DE, Gale RW, Meadows JC, Zajicek JL, Peterman PH, Jones PD, Bursian SJ, Kubiak TJ, Giesy JP, Aulerich RJ. (1996) Dietary exposure of mink to carp from Saginaw Bay, Michigan. 3. Characterization of dietary exposure to planar halogenated hydrocarbons, dioxin equivalents, and biomagnification. *Environmental Science and Technology* 30: 283-291.
- USEPA. (1989) Interim procedures for estimating risks associated with exposures to mixtures of chlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxin and dibenzofurans (CCDs and CDFs) and 1989 update. (EPA/625/3-89/016). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Washington, D.C.

Table 1. Selected endpoints and lowest observed adverse effects levels (LOAEL) reported for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), polychlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins (PCDD), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF) and dioxin toxic equivalents (TEQ) in mink diets and liver tissue (units changed from original sources to ng/g-ww for consistency).

Concentration (ng/g)					
Impairment	Endpoint	Toxin	Diet	Liver	Reference(s)
Reproduction	Kit survival 3 & 6 wks	PCB	0.720	2.190	Heaton et al. 1995 and Tillitt et al. 1996
		PCDD	0.060	2.626	
		PCDF	0.013	0.335	
		TEQ	0.0224	0.208	
Deformities	Jaw lesion in 31-wk kits	PCB	960	1698	Bursian et al. 2006b, c
		TEQ	0.0092	0.042	
Deformities	Jaw lesion in 27-wk kits	PCB	1100	16000	Bursian et al. 2006a
		TEQ	0.047	0.075	
Reproduction	Litter size	PCB	1360	7250	Halbrook et al. 1999
Reproduction	P-1 whelping reduced	PCB	250	860	Restum et al. 1998
	F-2 kit mortality	PCB	500	464	

Table 2. High, low and average (excluding high and low) concentrations of dioxin-furan toxic equivalents (TEQs) in livers from lakeshore (N=10) and inland (N=8) mink with detectable TEQ (ng/kg-wet weight). Dioxin-furan TEQ is multiplied by 1.25 and 2.0 to reflect the literature-based range of potential contributions from coplanar PCBs to total TEQ in mink.

Location	Value	TEQ	TEQ*1.25	TEQ*2
Lakeshore	Low	0.22	0.28	0.44
	Average (8)	7.75	9.69	15.50
	High	47.62	59.53	95.24
Inland	Low	0.01	0.01	0.02
	Average (6)	0.28	0.35	0.56
	High	4.16	5.20	8.32

Table 3. Tissue concentrations of selected TCDD-like chemicals in liver and adipose tissue of mink collected near Lake Ontario and inland, in and out of the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern (AOC), and corresponding presence and severity of jaw lesions. Dioxin toxic equivalent (TEQ) concentrations for liver are dioxin-furan TEQ*2 (see text and Table 2).

Collection Location	Total PCB Liver (ng/g-ww)	Adipose TEQ (ng/kg-ww)	Liver TEQ (ng/kg-ww)	Jaw Lesion
AOC-Lake				
Mink #17	5871	339	43	Severe
Mink #21	682	NA ^a	7	FTA ^b
Mink #56	15	8	BDL ^c	NO ^d
AOC-Inland				
Mink #63	554	9	BDL	FTA
Mink #61	64	9	BDL	NO
Mink #1	9	0	0	NO
Out of AOC-Lake				
Mink #49	755	38	77	NO
Mink #46	230	20	4	FTA
Mink #53	14	5	2	NO
Out of AOC-Inland				
Mink #30	45	IT ^e	BDL	NO
Mink #33	19	2	BDL	NO
Mink #14	7	AE ^f	0	NO

^aNA = no adipose tissue

^bFTA = freeze-thaw artifact

^cBDL = below detection limit

^dNO = not observed

^eIT = insufficient adipose tissue

^fAE = analytical error